



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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SENATE JUDICIARY  
EXHIBIT NO. 11  
DATE 2/13/13  
SB220

Senate Judiciary Committee

2/11/13

My name is Terry Forke. I am the President of the Montana District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are a conservative Lutheran body of 13,000 that receives life as a gift of God in Christ Jesus.

I come before you to ask you to please help Montana remain a state which honors life. The constitution of Montana says, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." Our constitution acknowledges the God-given responsibility of the state to protect the life of its citizens. The bill that is before you is no small matter. It is not a subtle change. It turns the duty of the state on its head. There is no rational reason for the state to get into the business of providing a process for the taking of innocent life. The state should continue to protect the life of its citizens.

I come before you to ask you to please help Montana remain a state that honors the healing profession. This profession will suffer irreparable harm if it becomes an arm of death. This bill turns healing into harm and heinously changes how doctors must think of themselves. The doctor-patient relationship will forever be suspect. And doctors will be turned against doctors over a fundamental understanding of purpose. I have a son who is a doctor. He has always dreamed of serving in rural Montana. Lord willing, that will happen this summer when he begins service at the Central Montana Community Health Center in Lewistown. But he does not want to serve, nor do I want him to serve, in a state that turns its doctors into tools of death.

I come before you to ask you to please help Montana remain a state that honors the elderly. They are valuable to God, if not to us. No matter how well the law may be written, once this line is crossed, the elderly will be placed in danger. This bill is the first step in a short dance that will end with the elderly, and who knows who else, being thought of as obstacles, hindrances, and economic burdens who should submit to death in order that we can get on with the business of life...until it is our turn. That is no way to honor them. Please vote no on this bill. Thank You.

Terry Forke  
President- Montana District LCMS  
Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton